

HB 1630 -- PRIVATE PROBATION SERVICES

SPONSOR: Gatschenberger

This bill changes the laws regarding the use of private probation services. In its main provisions, the bill:

(1) Authorizes judges in a circuit court that contracts with private or other court-approved entities for probation services to use, at their discretion, these services for a person who has been convicted of a class C or D felony;

(2) Requires the court to adopt rules for the approval of private probation services;

(3) Requires that an entity must be a registered corporation with the state, possess a certificate of corporation in good standing, and must submit a copy of its policies and procedures;

(4) Specifies all persons providing supervision within the entity must possess a bachelor's degree or have equivalent relevant professional experience; and

(5) Specifies that any person hired prior to the effective date of the bill will be considered to have fulfilled all education and experience requirements.

Additional factors for consideration will be experience and length of time in the field of criminal justice, the entity's financial ability to provide services, and other factors the judge deems necessary and relevant.